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NEWS RELEASE

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SDG&E URGED TO USE NEW TECHNOLOGY AND BETTER BRUSH MANAGEMENT TO PREVENT FIRES

San Diego, CA—Less than a month after the City Attorney's Office filed a lawsuit against San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) for damages in connection with the wildfires of October 2007, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) released its investigative report that principally faults poorly maintained SDG&E power lines for the initial cause of the fires.

The City of San Diego was the first governmental agency to file a claim against SDG&E, alleging the utility's liability for damages to a significant amount of the City's real or personal property, as well as the City's cost for fighting the fires.

"While we filed the lawsuit to hold SDG&E accountable for the devastation, we also want them to take immediate action to prevent another firestorm such as using new technology that would automatically turn off the power when electrical lines snap," said City Attorney Michael Aguirre. "SDG&E must also do a better job at brush management, clearing shrubbery away from utility substations and transmission lines."

Below are excerpts from CAL FIRE'S report that was conducted by their fire specialists:

- Witch Fire, October 21, 2007
"During my investigation into the origin of the Witch Fire, I eliminated all other causes for the fire, determining the cause to be power lines."
- Guejito Fire, (Merged Witch Fire) October 22, 2007
"After investigation of the origin area(s) the fire was determined to have started when energized power lines and lashing wire from a Cox Communications cable came in contact with each other."
- Rice Canyon Fire, October 23, 2007
"During my investigation, I eliminated all other causes for the Rice Fire, determining it to be a power line caused fire."

To view the CAL FIRE report on the 2007 Wildfires and the City of San Diego's June 19, 2008 lawsuit against SDG&E, visit www.sandiegocityattorney.org, click "Significant Reports and Legal Documents."

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